

of language apart from acquiring particular languages. This, like mathematics, has a basic relation to many other subjects (e.g. psychology, philosophy, education, communications engineering, literature, etc.), but, unlike mathematics, it is not taught as a special subject in our universities. Consequently, it has not received special attention by university libraries, and even standard periodicals in this field are either not in the country or poorly represented. The linguist also benefits from any provision made for particular languages. Without actually mastering many languages, he gains interest and profit from browsing in a grammar of Albanian or Faroese or Swahili. It perhaps needs emphasis that even a desultory interest in particular languages is worth promoting.

Public libraries help interest in this subject by providing books such as Mario Pei's *Story of language*, Margaret Schlauch's *The gift of tongues* or at a more advanced level, Bloomfield's *Language*. In contrast to other subjects, standard books in linguistics are not always translated. Linguists are, of course, likely to be willing to read other languages. For this reason even public libraries could consider providing at least some of the important works in French by Saussure, Meillet, etc.

I have often thought that one thing that can be said for Dewey is that it reminds us perpetually that it is possible to regard language study as a major segment of human knowledge. I think languages have been neglected here while other things were being done. Much could be done to rectify this, not only by improving coverage of books in the standard languages in all subject fields, urgent though this task is, but also by promoting interest in language and languages generally. Demand will thus grow as it is met, a virtuous circle in accordance with library educational aims.

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A PUBLIC LIBRARY ESTABLISHED IN WESTERN SAMOA

The sum of £5,000 has been donated by the family of the late Mr O. F. Nelson towards the establishment in Western Samoa of a public library to be known as the Nelson Memorial Public Library. The family has also made available a site for the Library building.

Until permanent premises have been erected, the Library will operate in temporary quarters provided by the Methodist Mission.

Miss D. M. E. Allen, formerly Deputy Librarian, Whangarei Public Library, has been appointed Librarian.